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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Forced Labor Camps in the Igarka District

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

"There is a network of forced labor camps in the Igarka area:

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- a) About 11 km from the town of Igarka there is a camp called 117 Voylag. It holds about 700 Poles, officers from the post World War II Polish Army under Rokossovsky and probably NCOs also. The offence for which most of them were sent to this camp was an 'unfriendly attitude' to Soviet officers serving in Polish uniform.

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An example of what this 'unfriendly attitude' means is the case of a former Polish captain who, in October 1951 was engaged in loading work

His commander, a Soviet officer using a Polish name, did a roaring business on the black market selling army petrol and lubricants. The control commission found out in summer 1952 that thefts from the stores amounted to three million zlotys. Since the commander was away, Captain [redacted] was asked to explain. He did not want to involve his chief and pretended he did not know a thing, whereupon he was arrested and charged. Then he finally confessed that the Soviet commander was guilty and gave the names of witnesses. The Polish military police stopped investigation at once and handed him over to Soviet authorities at Legnica. About a week later he was sent on his way to the north without further formalities.

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- b) Some 32 km from Camp 117-Voylag is the Camp 117-Vostok-Voylag. Its inmates are mostly former members of the Polish anti-Nazi underground - Home Army as well as civilian underground authorities who revealed their identities to the Soviets upon the Soviet Army's entrance into Poland. The present number of prisoners in this camp is estimated at over 1,000.
- c) About 25 km north of Igarka, there is a camp in Tviorda Kureyska [sic] which holds women prisoners. These women include nearly 100 German girls who formerly belonged to the auxiliary service of the Wehrmacht. At the beginning of 1951 a large transport of Polish women, about 100, was brought to the camp.
- d) There is a camp called Stiepanovy Lies in the near vicinity of Tviorda Kureyska. The inmates are mostly East Germans who have been brought there during the last five years: engineers, workers, policemen, former civil servants etc. Their total is said to be about 500.
- e) Some 30 large camps are scattered on the right bank of the Yenisei between Igarka and Dudinka. Their inmates are mostly Soviet citizens from various republics of the USSR.
3. "Nearly all the work in Igarka harbor is done by prisoner labor brigades under the supervision of the MVD. The supervision is not very strict because the MVD soldiers usually pretend not to see the foreign seamen loading the bedraggled prisoners with gifts of all sorts. The reason is that on the way back to the camp the prisoners are expected to share their gains with the guards. The profits to the guards are in no way negligible under Soviet conditions. The work for foreign ships at Igarka is, therefore, considered a profitable proposition. The guards have instructions to treat the prisoners well, so as not to make too bad an impression on foreigners. For these reasons the assignment to such tasks is a great privilege which camp authorities grant mostly to well-behaved prisoners who scrupulously fulfill their norms. Only if the cargoes are large and time is short, do non-privileged prisoners get a chance. Thefts by the prisoners on foreign ships occur rarely, because the foreign seamen willingly part with whatever they can spare to help the miserable creatures. But if a theft does occur, it usually is not observed by an MVD guard, because the spoils from thieving are also shared later."

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